



Vol. 1

#3

OF 6
COVER A

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT Aris





VOL. 1

#3

OF 6
COVER B

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT

A
Kris





VOL. 1

3

OF 6
COVER C

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A Kris



Executive Assistant: Iris

鸢尾

[VOLUME ONE: ISSUE THREE]



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SHINJUKU DISTRICT, TOKYO.
WEDNESDAY, 8:20 PM.

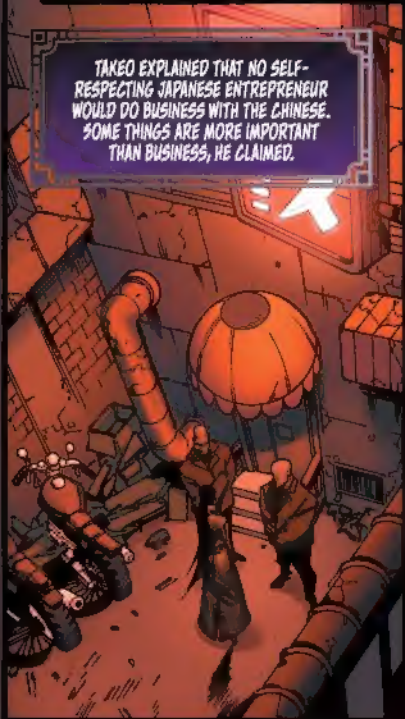


MY EMPLOYER FIRST MET
TAKEO SUZUKI ON THESE
VERY STREETS, NEARLY
30 YEARS AGO.

TAKEO WAS A YOUNG GANGSTER
ON THE RISE, SURROUNDED BY
PLENTY OF COMPETITION. HE
NEEDED AN EDGE.



WHEN MY EMPLOYER SUGGESTED
TAKEO ALLY HIMSELF WITH HWANG,
A MAN WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS IN
SHANGHAI, HE SCOFFED.



TAKEO EXPLAINED THAT NO SELF-
RESPECTING JAPANESE ENTREPRENEUR
WOULD DO BUSINESS WITH THE CHINESE.
SOME THINGS ARE MORE IMPORTANT
THAN BUSINESS, HE CLAIMED.



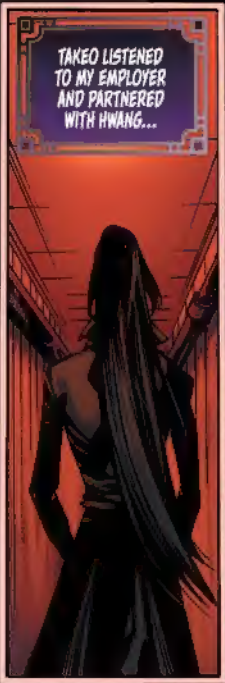
«CAN I
HELP YOU,
MISS?»*

«TRANSLATED
FROM JAPANESE.»



«YES, I'M
HERE TO SEE
VIC TAKAHASHI?»

MISTER CHING LAUGHED, PATTED TAKEO ON
THE SHOULDER AND SAID, "NOTHING IS MORE
IMPORTANT THAN BUSINESS, MY FRIEND!"



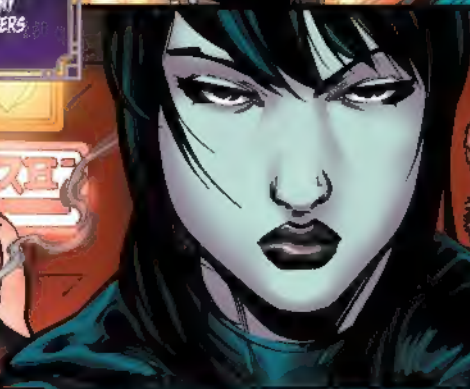
TAKED LISTENED
TO MY EMPLOYER
AND PARTNERED
WITH HWANG...



...AND HIS BUSINESS
BOOMED.

NOW HE SITS ATOP THE LARGEST
UNDERGROUND GAMBLING
OPERATION IN TOKYO.

AND WHILE MOST GANG-RELATED ACTIVITIES OCCUR
IN SECRET, AS FAR AWAY FROM SCRUTINIZING EYES
AS POSSIBLE, TAKED HAS PAID OFF SO MANY
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND RIVAL GANGSTERS
THAT HE FEARS NO ONE.



NOT YET.



<EXCUSE ME,
BUT CAN YOU TELL
ME WHERE TO FIND
MISTER TAKAHASHI?
I'M NAKIKO
INABA...>

<YOU'RE
CUTE, NAKIKO.
YOU LOOKING
FOR A JOB AS
A HOSTESS?>

<WELL, NO. I'M
NOT QUITE READY
FOR THAT YET. I WAS
HOPING TO BE A
CARD DEALER.>



<HEY IT'S
NIKKI. IS VIC
AROUND?>



<SHE SAYS SHE
WANTS TO BE A
DEALER... UH 5'7",
PRETTY EYES... HAHA,
NO, YOU WON'T BE
DISAPPOINTED.>

<HUH-HEY
SWEETIE, YOU
WANNA COME
HOME WHU...
WITH ME? I'M
RICH!>





«CERTAINLY»

~MMMM~

«YOU SURE YOU WANNA BE A DEALER? CUZ I CAN THINK OF SOME OTHER JOBS YOU'D BE MORE THAN QUALIFIED FOR.»

«I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, BUT I TRY TO BE A VIRTUOUS WOMAN, YOU KNOW?»

«CAN'T BLAME A GUY FOR TRYIN'!»

«HERE, TAKE THIS AND HEAD OVER TO THE YUMMY YUMMY HOSTESS BAR. MISTER SUZUKI WILL BE EXPECTING YOU.»

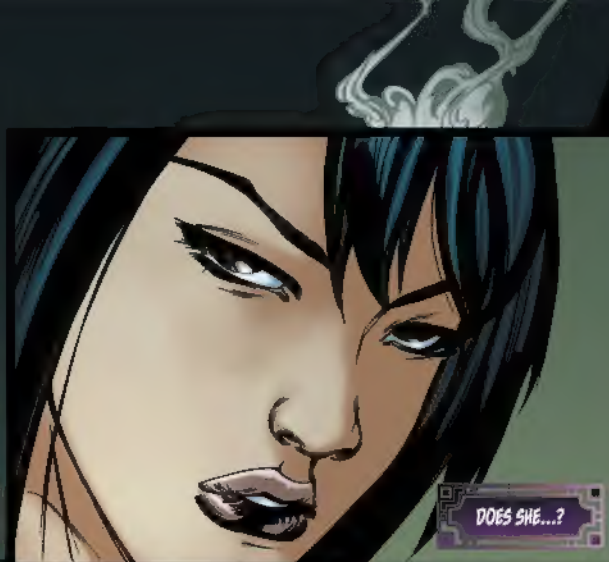
TAKEO CONTROLS OVER A DOZEN BUSINESSES IN SHINJUKU ALONE.

ALL PLACES THAT ARE RIDDLED WITH GAMBLING, DRUGS AND PROST--

I-- KNOW HER.

KNEW HER...





LATER THAT EVENING...

LULU SHE COULDN'T HAVE RECOGNIZED ME.

IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.

AND WE'VE EMBARKED UPON SUCH... DIFFERENT PATHS.

<HELLO. I'M HERE TO SEE MISTER SUZUKI.>

<OF COURSE.>

<LET ME GET THAT FOR YOU...>

<ENJOY...>

PENTHOUSE...

...MY EMPLOYER HAD MENTIONED THAT TAKEO HAD BECOME SOMETHING OF A... MEDONIST.

THAT APPEARS TO BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT.



<SO... THIS MUST BE NAKIKO.>

<YES... VERY NICE... PLEASE, FOLLOW ME.>

<I HOPE YOU LIKE CRISTAL, IT'S A PREREQUISITE FOR ALL MY... INTERVIEWS.>

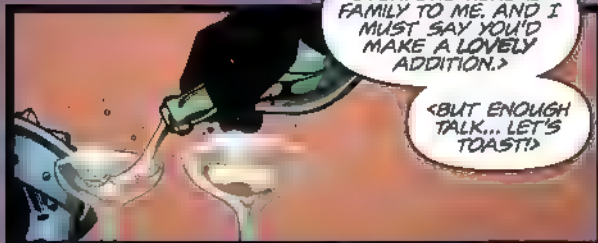
<SO MS... INABA, I'M FLATTERED THAT YOU WANT TO WORK FOR ME... BUT I WONDER WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?>

<MISTER SUZUKI, YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU. I CAN THINK OF NOBODY I'D RATHER WORK FOR.>



<YES, IT'S TRUE. EVERYONE HERE IS FAMILY TO ME, AND I MUST SAY YOU'D MAKE A LOVELY ADDITION.>

<BUT ENOUGH TALK... LET'S TOAST!>





<TO MY
NEWEST
EMPLOYEE...>

<THANK
YOU, SIR. BUT
IS THERE A PLACE
WHERE WE CAN
BE... ALONE...>

<...WHERE
I CAN REALLY
SHOW MY
GRATITUDE.>

<SOON,
DARLING.>

<NAKIKO...>

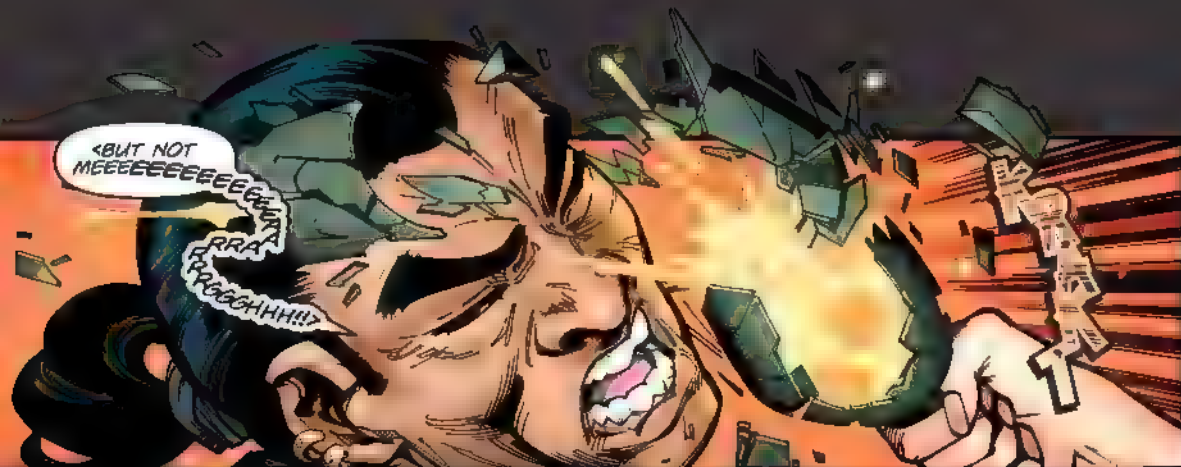
<YOU REALLY
EXPECTED TO
WALTZ RIGHT INTO
MY TOWN AND
JUST TAKE ME
OUT?>

<I TOLD CHING
THOSE EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANTS WOULD
BE THE DEATH
OF HIM...>

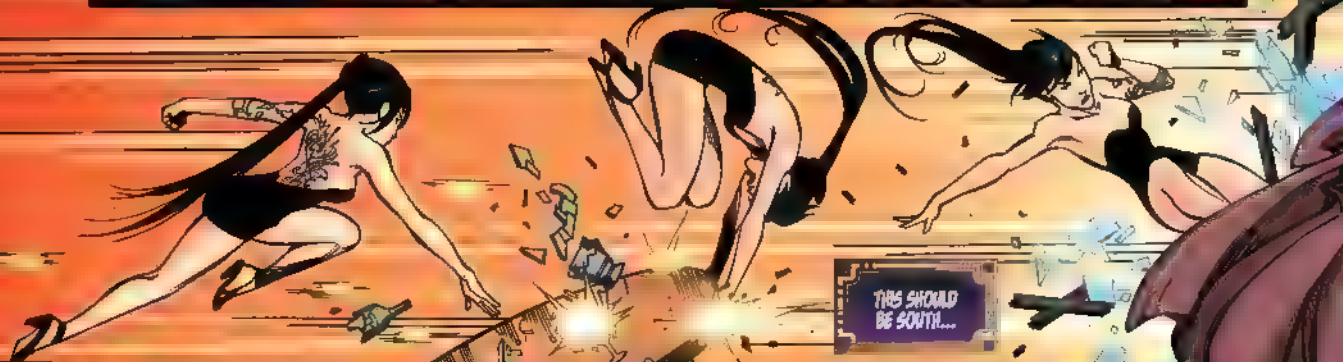
<...IS THAT THE
SAME NAME YOU
USED TO TAKE OUT
POOR HWANG?>

<I'M SORRY
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU-->

QUIET!



THE NORTH AND
EAST WINDOWS
FACE THE STREET.

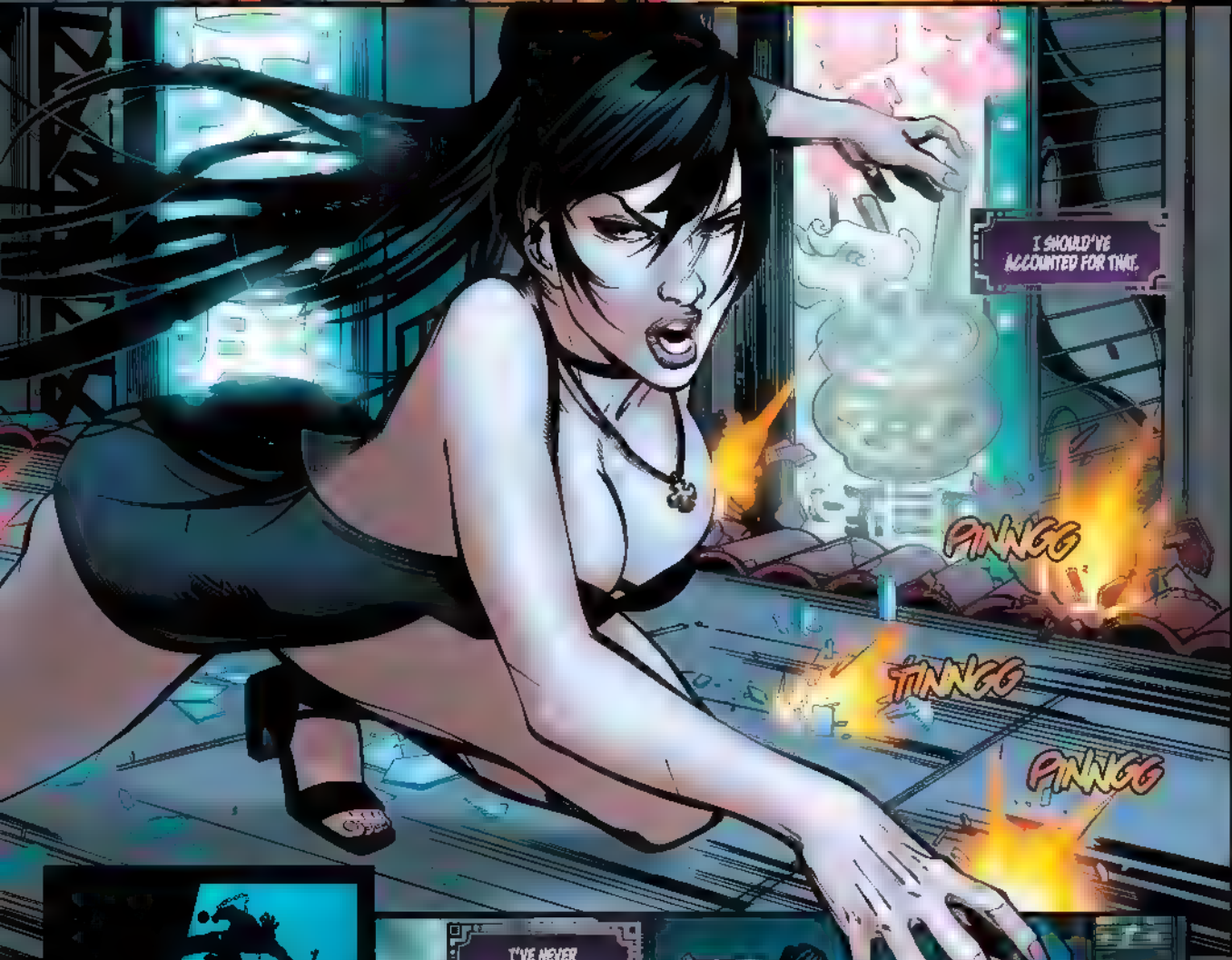


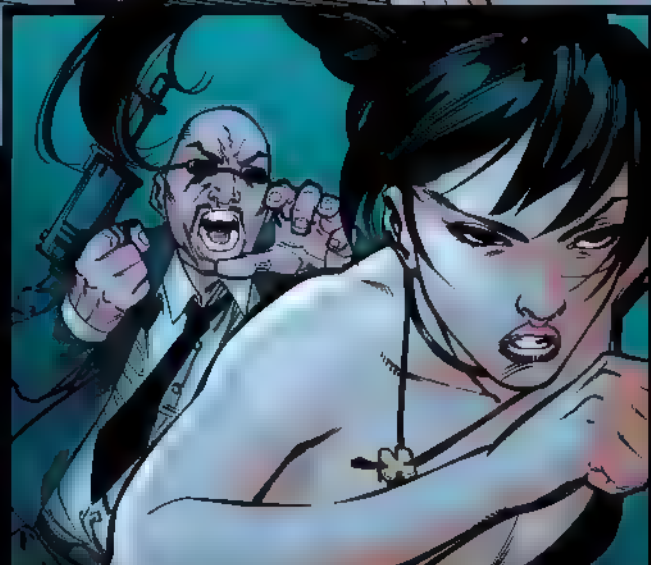
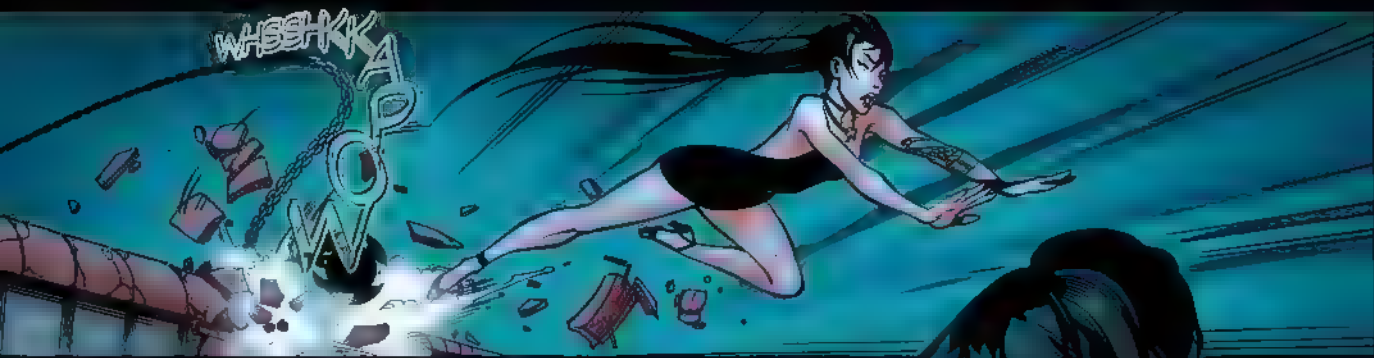
THIS SHOULD
BE SOUTH...



...I HOPE??

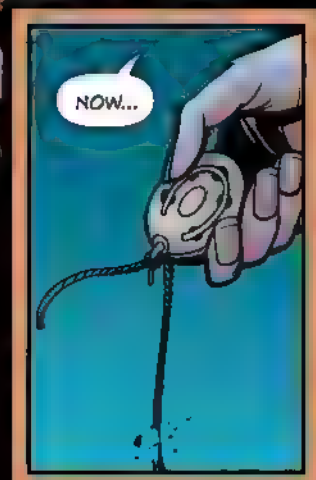
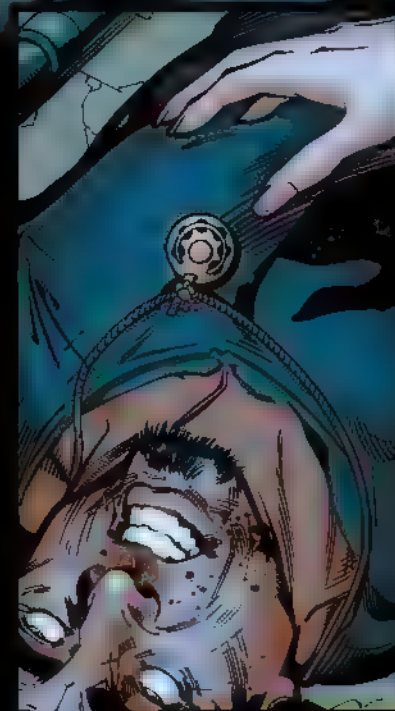
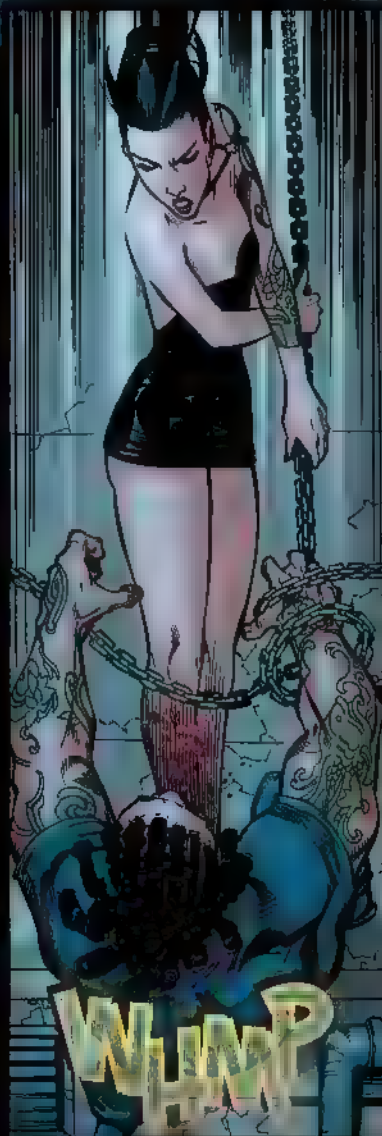
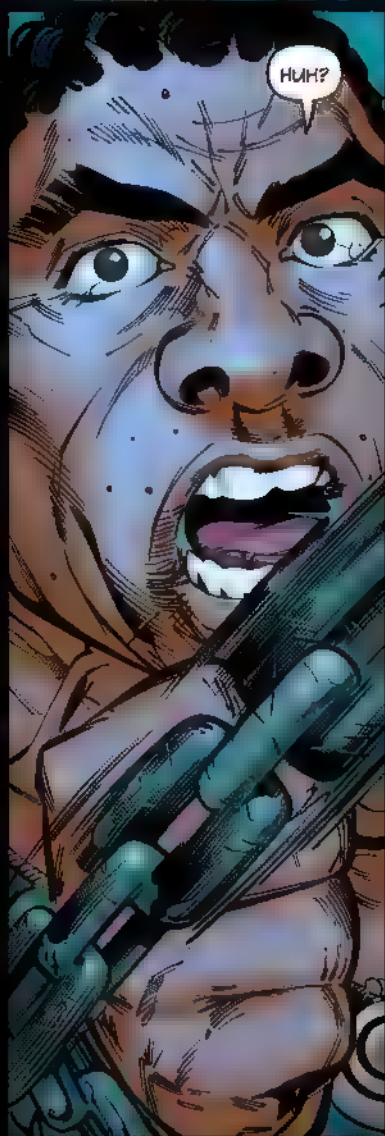
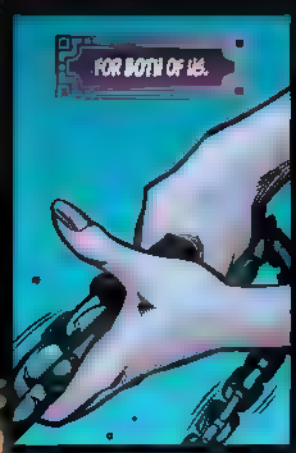
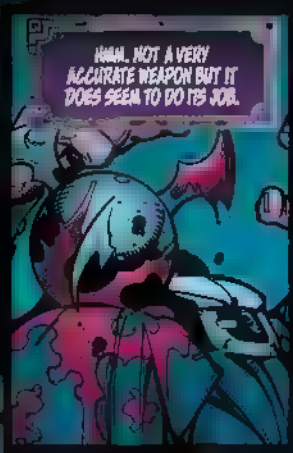


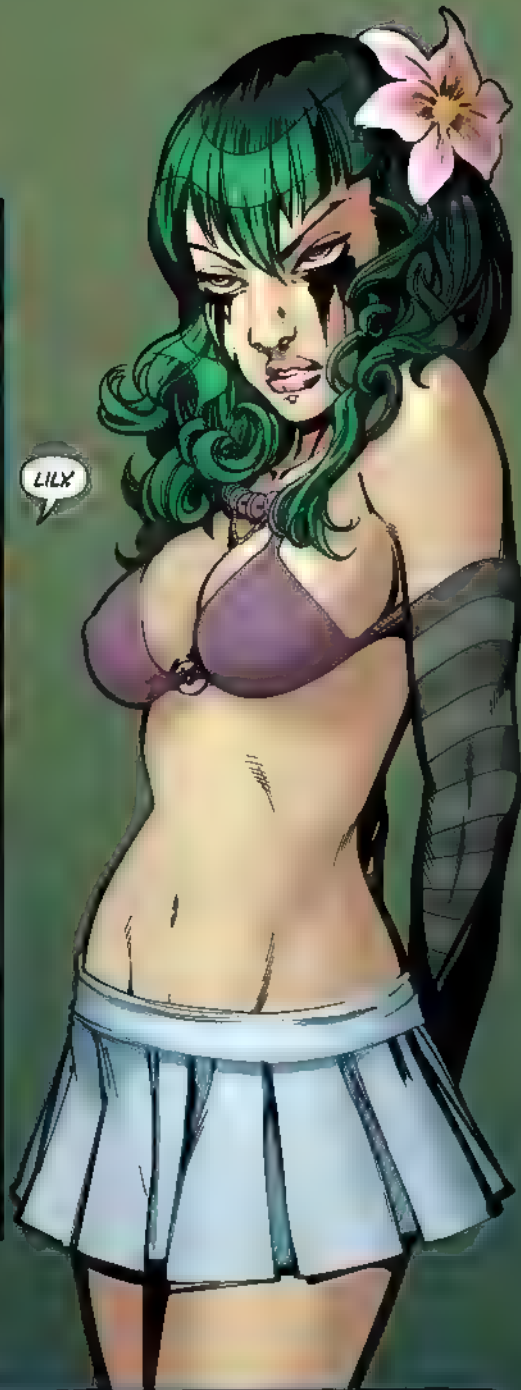
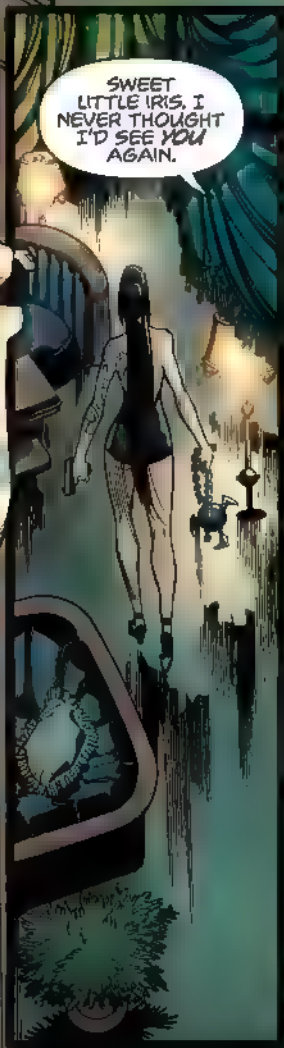




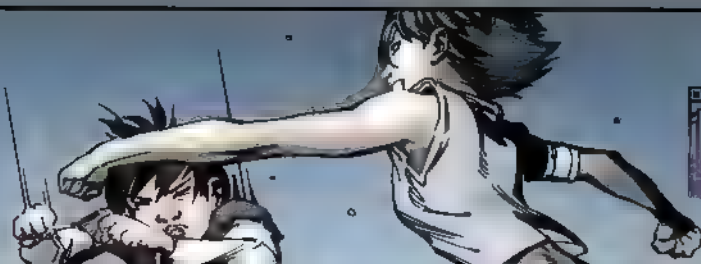








FATHER BELIEVED SHE WAS ALMOST READY TO LEAVE THE ACADEMY.



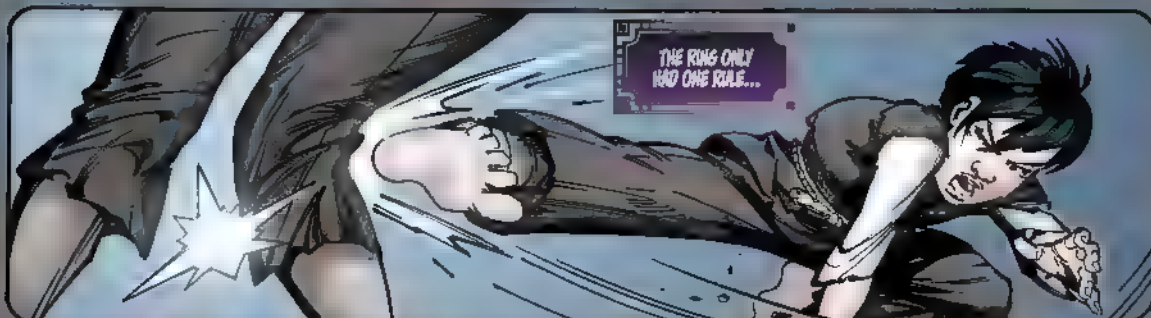
SHE WAS TO BE THE MOST VALUABLE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT YET.

BUT A YOUNGER GIRL HAD JUST GRADUATED TO RING COMBAT.



AND SHE INTENDED TO MAKE THE MOST OF HER OPPORTUNITY.

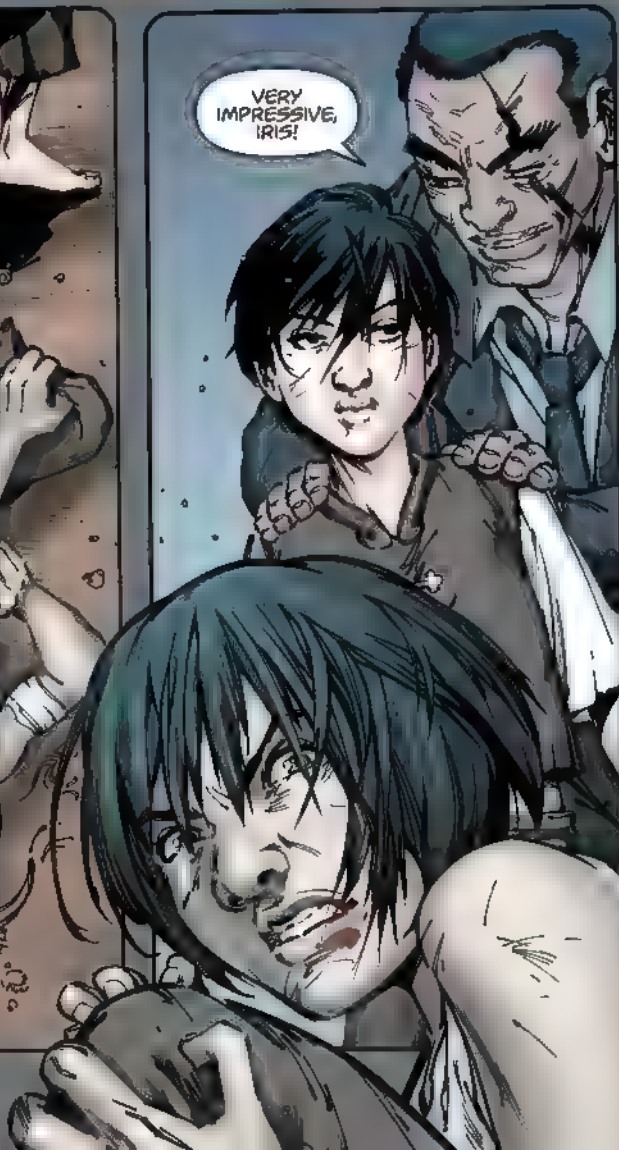
THE RING ONLY HAD ONE RULE...



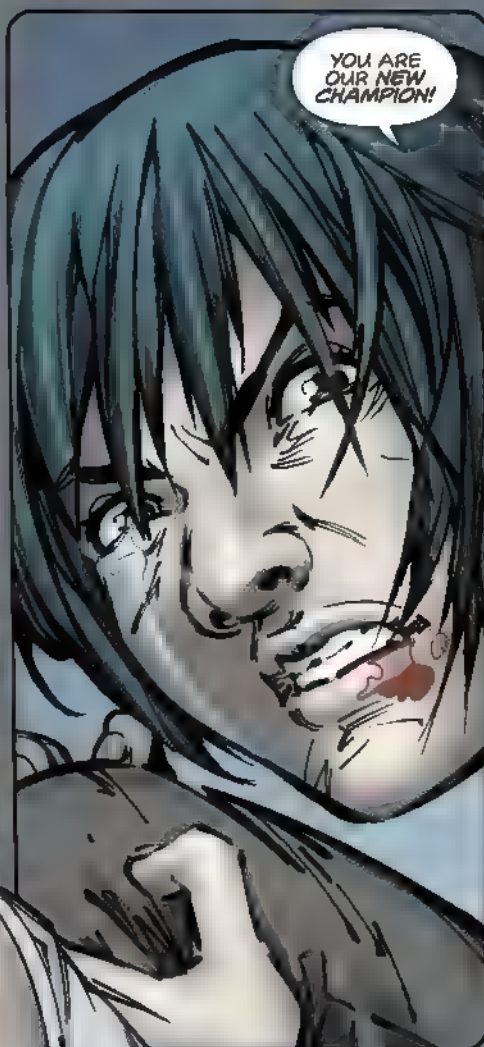
...PLAY TO WIN.

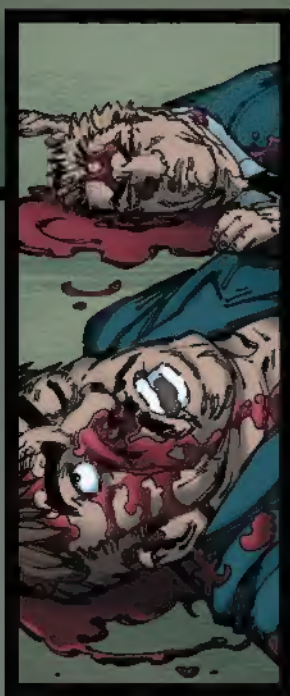
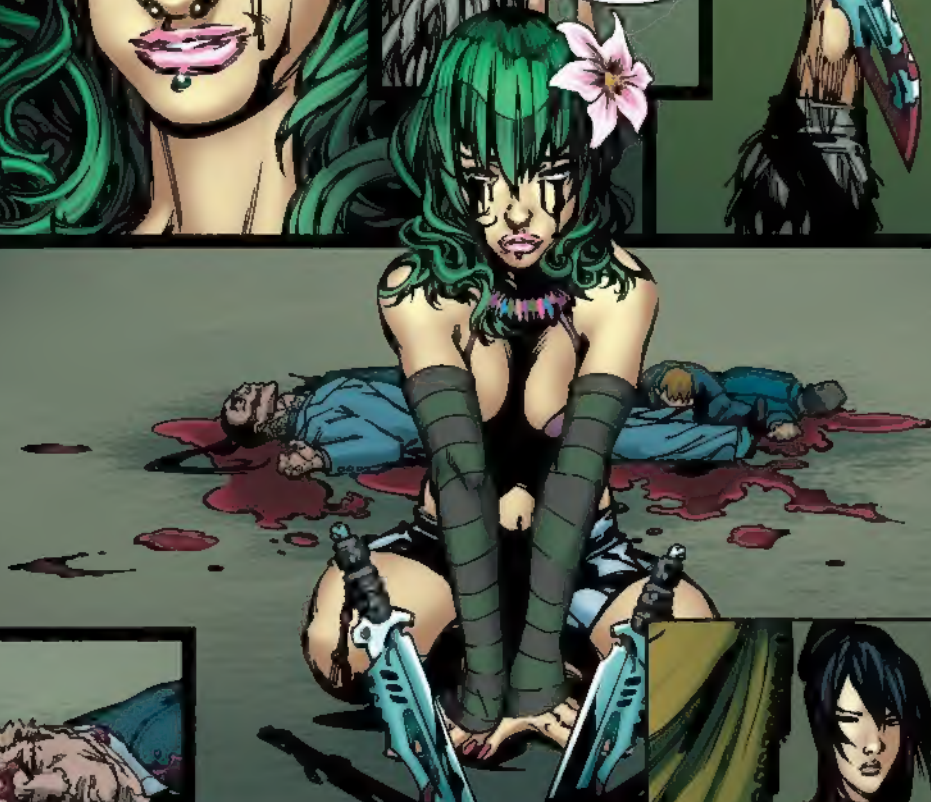


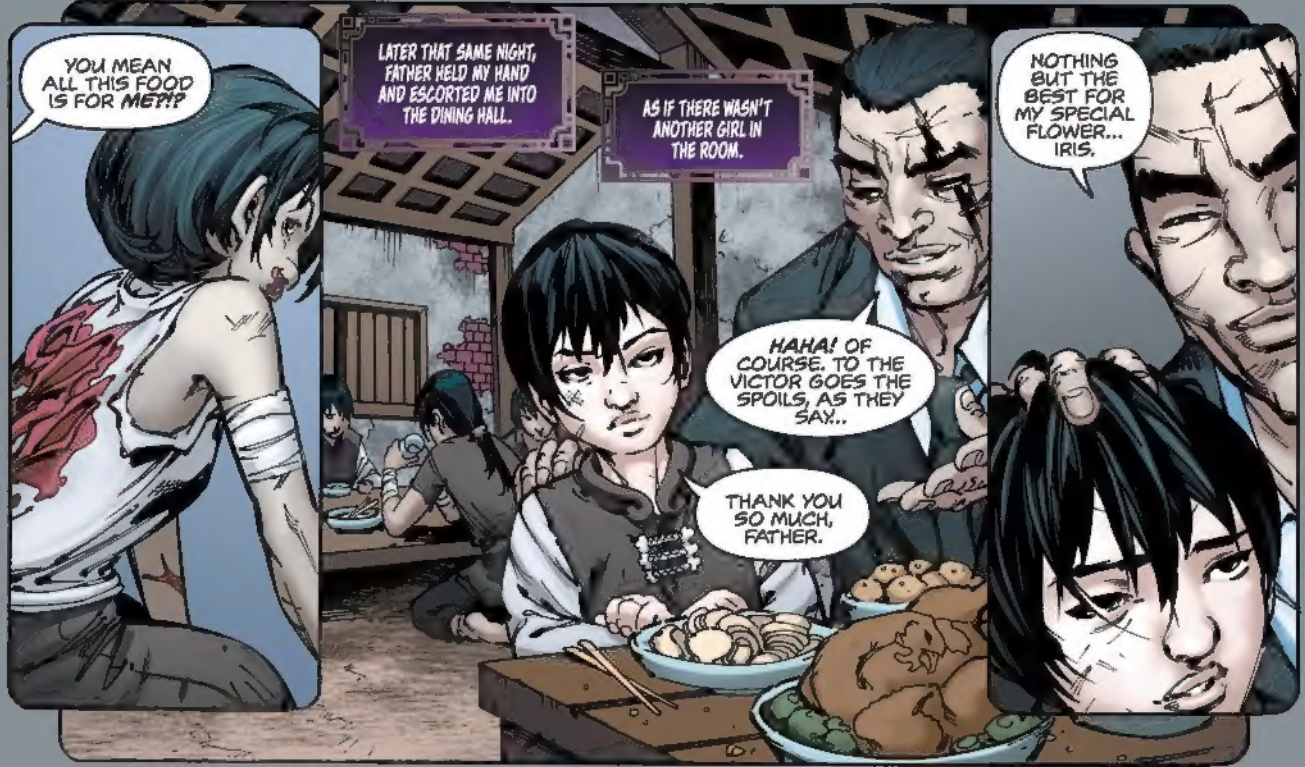
VERY IMPRESSIVE, IRIS!



YOU ARE OUR NEW CHAMPION!







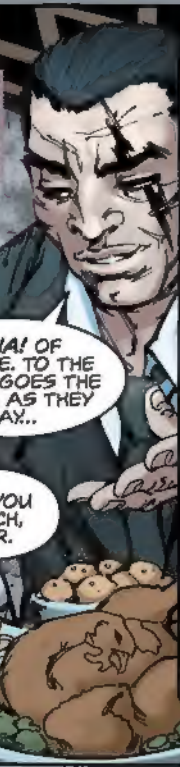
YOU MEAN ALL THIS FOOD IS FOR ME??



LATER THAT SAME NIGHT, FATHER HELD MY HAND AND ESCORTED ME INTO THE DINING HALL.



AS IF THERE WASN'T ANOTHER GIRL IN THE ROOM.



HAHA! OF COURSE. TO THE VICTOR GOES THE SPOILS, AS THEY SAY...



THANK YOU SO MUCH, FATHER.

NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR MY SPECIAL FLOWER... IRIS.



NOW EAT...

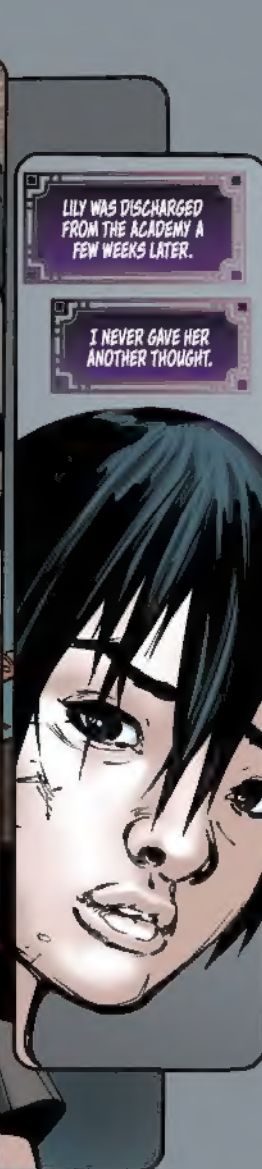


HE CALLED IT THE VICTORY FEAST.

EVERY GIRL SAT AT THE TABLE AND SHARED IN THE MEAL... EXCEPT ONE.



SHE WASN'T PERMITTED TO SIT WITH US.



LILY WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE ACADEMY A FEW WEEKS LATER.

I NEVER GAVE HER ANOTHER THOUGHT.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. FRIDAY.

WHAT AN
INCREDIBLE
TALE, IRIS.

I CAN ONLY
IMAGINE THE
LOOK ON TAKEO'S
FACE WHEN HIS OWN
HOOKER LITERALLY
STABBED HIM IN
THE BACK!

I'M SURE
IT WAS QUITE
THE SPEC--

IRIS, ARE
YOU EVEN
LISTENING
TO ME?

MY
APOLOGIES,
SIR.

AND IT SEEMS
OUR FRIEND RUCKER
IS BECOMING A
NUISANCE. PERHAPS
IT IS TIME TO END
THAT CHARADE.

!GASP!

DO YOU
REQUIRE
ANYTHING
ELSE, SIR?

THAT WILL
BE ALL,
IRIS.



MAR VISTA,
CALIFORNIA.
SATURDAY.

Mar Vista

RUCKER'S MESSAGE WAS
AN INVITATION TO A PARTY. NO
OTHER DETAILS WERE INCLUDED.

THIS WASN'T
QUITE WHAT I HAD
IN MIND...

C'MON, MA--
LET ME CLEAR THE
DISHES. IT'S THE
LEAST I COULD
DO ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY!

NEVER MIND
THAT, DEAR. I
STILL CAN'T BELIEVE
I HAVEN'T EVEN MET
YOUR GIRLFRIEND
BEFORE.

I'M NOT SURE
IF TWO DATES
QUALIFIES AS
"GIRLFRIEND"
STATUS...

THANK YOU FOR
THE DELICIOUS
DINNER, MRS.
RUCKER.

IT WAS MY
PLEASURE! MAYBE
NEXT TIME YOUR
WHOLE FAMILY CAN
COME OVER!

PLEASE EXCUSE
MY MA. SHE'S NOT USED
TO SEEING ME WITH
ANYONE... WELL,
MEANINGFUL.

OH, SHE WAS
WONDERFUL. I'M
JUST SORRY I NEED
TO LEAVE SO
SOON BUT--

NO WORRIES.
I APPRECIATE YOU
MAKING TIME FOR ME.
I'M HOPING WE CAN
EVEN MAKE IT TO
DATE NUMBER
THREE!

ME TOO.

IRIS, I--

TO BE CONTINUED IN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:
IRIS #4